

GARDNER URGES LOWER TAXES

WILL CALL SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE RATE.

REVENUE TO EQUAL EXPENSE

Executive Writes Letter to Ray County Committee Promising Reforms if Imposition is Practiced—Equalization Aim.

Jefferson City, Mo. A special session of the Missouri general assembly has been called by Gov. Gardner for the spring of 1918, to reduce the state taxation rate. Other matters to be considered by the assembly will include expenditures by the state incident to the war.

A letter from Gov. Gardner to the Ray County Taxpayers' Committee is the result of a resolution it adopted dealing with the working of the recently created State Tax Commission. It was based on the theory assessments of property at full value will work hardship upon farmers.

Following is the governor's letter: I have read the article signed by yourselves on the subject of tax assessment. The substance of the resolution, I take it, is that "with a cash valuation the assessed valuation of the state would be trebled, which under the present tax rate would in the year 1918 collect \$7,000,000 more than was ever collected before in any one year by direct tax."

No state should collect more from the taxpayers than is required to economically and efficiently administer its affairs, giving the maximum service at the minimum expense. I beg to say that after the State Board of Equalization has finished its work in March, 1918, and the true valuation has been ascertained and certified, I shall call a special session of the legislature for the express purpose of reducing the state tax rate to a figure meeting only the legitimate expenses of the state. It is my opinion that the rate can be decreased and each biennial period thereafter the rate may be decreased further.

The county courts, school boards and other levying bodies will be informed of the assessment as finally determined by the State Board of Equalization; and the said bodies will in the spring reduce their tax rates. The upshot of the whole proposition will be that taxes will be equalized honestly, justly and fairly to all citizens. Our present system, which invites hundreds of thousands of citizens, together with assessor and board, to annual perjury, will be abolished in this state, as it has been in practically all others. Such a change will be in conformity with the plain law.

Open Sale of Prison Products.

Governor Gardner has taken personal charge of the affairs of the Missouri penitentiary. He called the prison board into conference and directed it to place all the products of the prison factories on the market and advertise them for sale in the metropolitan newspapers. His action followed an investigation into the penitentiary industrial department, which revealed that D. M. Oberman, a private contractor, had enjoyed a monopoly on the output of the largest prison factory for the past six months.

The investigation also revealed that the contract labor system, prohibited by law, had been carried on right under the Gardner administration by Gardner's appointees, though the statute abolishing the system decreed that all contracts should terminate on December 31, 1916.

The abolition of the contract system by law was accomplished after years of effort by humane societies and progressive legislators. Newspapers announced, on information made public by prison authorities, that this contractor, who owned the overall factory, had moved from the prison, as had other contractors.

Records of the industrial department show that Oberman continued to pay for labor at the old rate of 75 cents per day until April 14, when the terms of his arrangement seemed to have been changed, but the relative cost of his labor remained about the same.

After that date he paid \$1 per day for labor, instead of 75 cents per day. A task represents the amount of work an experienced machinist can turn out in a day, while day labor is paid for on the basis of every man employed, including the inexperienced, whose mistakes frequently cost the contractor more than their services are worth.

Poisoned Court-Plaster Warnings.

Because tetanus and typhoid germs have been discovered upon court-plaster sold in many sections of the country, the Missouri council of defense notified the chairmen of county councils of defense to warn the people of their respective county not to purchase court-plasters from any but reputable dealers.

The department of justice in reply to a query by the council said that in several of the western states tetanus and typhoid germs were discovered upon court-plaster.

More Road Money.

Information comes to the capital that at a special election in Mississippi county about issue for building permanent roads carried by a large majority. In addition it will receive from the county it will receive from \$75,000 to \$100,000 from the state and federal good roads fund, this county being the first in the state to receive such aid.

It is proposed to build gravel roads, the material to be given to the county by Senator William Hunter of Benton.

War on Tax Dodgers.

War upon tax dodgers has been declared by the assessors of Missouri in a recent conference in Jefferson City. All members of the association are urged to take every means to induce property owners to make full and immediate returns on all holdings. The following resolutions were adopted at the Jefferson City meeting:

Whereas, idle and semi-idle wealth, to the extent of many millions of dollars, commonly known as personal property of the invisible class, annually escapes taxation through the failure and refusal of its apathetic and satisfied owners to make return of it to the assessor, as required by law, and

Whereas, declining to return any value is more unjust and unlawful than returning property undervalued; and,

Whereas, this kind of tax dodging by predatory wealth is universally recognized as the greatest evil of the general property system of taxation; therefore, be it

Resolved, that this conference, individually and collectively, most diligently employ every power given by law to uncover and assess personal property of the invisible class, valuing same in accordance with the law for valuing this and all other kinds of property subject to taxation; and

Whereas, Section 11384, R. S. Mo., 1909, provides that "the assessor shall value and assess all the property on his books according to its true value in money;" and

Whereas, the statutes in fifteen different places specify said value as the value at which to tax property, and as nowhere is mention made of any other value as the one to employ in making assessment; and

Whereas, section 11344 requires the assessor to take oath that he will "assess all property at which he believes to be its actual cash value;" and

Whereas, no option is given the assessor in fixing valuations to depart from the value prescribed by law, the statute being mandatory and a penalty being fixed for failure, refusal or neglect to comply; and

Whereas, the law provides for varying the rate of levy within the maximum prescribed by the constitution, so as to collect whatever quantity of taxes that may be necessary;

Therefore, be it resolved, that this conference believes that the only legal way provided to regulate the amount of taxes collected is to vary the rate, permitting law and facts, conscience and courage to determine valuation; and

Be it further resolved, that compliance strictly with the law in fixing valuations is for the purpose of establishing uniformity, for having only one standard of measurement, and for insuring equality of burden, and not for the purpose of increasing taxes, as any increase or decrease must legally depend on the rate levied, and only on that rate.

How shall prosperity be valued? The above is a live question. The only correct answer is: According to law. Many officers, however, do not know what the law is; therefore, how can the citizen be blamed for not knowing the law?

Refuses to Unionize Shop.

Representatives of the St. Louis concern which has the \$50,000 contract for installing the electrical equipment in the new capitol, told R. T. Wood, president of the Missouri Federation of Labor, and P. J. Grimes, president of the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union, that they would not unionize their shop while putting the electrical equipment into the capitol.

This declaration followed a meeting of the union men with the Capitol Commission.

Home Guard Reserves.

Col. A. N. Seaber is preparing to organize a "Home Guard Reserve" company, to be made up of men over 64 years of age, some of whom are at present members of the "Governor's Guard."

The purpose of the company would be to have it ready for service in the event it should ever be necessary for the governor to call out the "Home Guard" for duty outside of Jefferson City.

To Buy Penitentiary Goods.

Heads of state eleemosynary institutions were notified by Gov. Gardner to come to Jefferson City and confer with the State Prison Board about the purchase of all institution supplies from the state penitentiary.

The conference has for its principal object the standardization of the clothing, shoes, brooms, mops, etc., which the institutions purchase.

Mrs. Knot Appointed.

Mrs. John A. Knott, wife of the former state inspector of oils, who committed suicide a few days ago, will fill out the unexpired term of her husband under an appointment from Gov. Gardner. She will hold office until August 16.

State Aid for St. Louis.

The allotment of \$6,000 to St. Louis out of the \$200,000 made by the last legislature out of the state good roads fund will be spent in paving Skinner road on the western boundary of Forest Park with wood blocks.

Under the terms of the appropriation the maximum amount that could be drawn by any one county in the state was fixed at 5 per cent. St. Louis drew its maximum of \$6,000, making an agreement with the State Highway Board that it would be expended on Skinner road.

Guard to Be Armed.

Attorney General McAllister, who is in Washington to ascertain what equipment can be obtained from the government for Home Guard organizations in Missouri, telegraphed to Governor Gardner as follows:

"Have had a satisfactory interview with Secretary Baker and afterward with ordnance officers. The immediate supply of equipment is limited, but plenty will be available in two or three months."

Home Guards organizations are being formed all over the state.

KEET TRIAL DELAYED

Suspects in Springfield Kidnaping Case are Granted a Change of Venue.

TO BE TRIED AT MARSHFIELD

Hearings Will Begin the Second Monday in September Before Judge C. H. Skinner.

After hearing testimony of three witnesses that bias and prejudice existing at Springfield would prevent the defendants from obtaining a fair trial in Green county, Judge B. G. Thurman in the criminal court ordered the cases of all persons accused in the Keet and other kidnaping conspiracies in Springfield transferred to the Webster county circuit court at Marshfield. Their trials were set for the second Monday in September before Judge C. H. Skinner.

The order was made at a hearing for a change of venue, application for which was filed by counsel for the prisoners.

Owing to the secrecy used in bringing the prisoners from St. Louis and Stockton, only a few persons were attracted to the court house for the hearing. All the prisoners were taken into court. None was handcuffed. Those brought here were Claude J. Piersol, Cleus Adams and Taylor Adams, charged with kidnaping Lloyd Keet, and Mrs. Taylor Adams, Sam McGinnis, Dick Carter, Maxie Adams, charged with the other three with attempting to kidnap C. A. Clement.

Throughout the brief proceedings all the defendants, even the stolid Claude Piersol, who three times was strung up by a mob at Stockton in an attempt to wring a confession from him, appeared uneasy and were visibly relieved when led from the courtroom for the return trip. They will be kept at Marshfield until the trial.

No effort was made to get the release of any of them on bond.

War Exhibits at Sedalia.

Plans for an enormous governmental exhibit along patriotic lines, showing war and its various phases as it is crystallized at Washington recently when at a conference of the National Council of Defense and the National Security League it was finally decided to make an extensive display at the Missouri State Fair September 22 to 29.

Corn on Flood Land Good.

Corn replanted on overflowed bottom lands in the Charlton Valley is good. J. G. Yutz, a farmer near Callao, had thirty acres of corn destroyed by the flood. He was unable to replant until July 1. His corn now is more than twenty-four inches high. Its growth has been more than an inch a day. Lowland farmers are confident they will raise as good crops as though floods had not drowned them out. The losses, which had been estimated at thousands, will nearly all be made good by the development of replanted fields.

To Widen Road to Liberty.

Rock road building in Clay county is delayed by points concerning the 14 million dollar bond issue still before the supreme court, but the Clay county court is getting state aid in permanent road work. The Liberty and Kansas City road will be widened to thirty-two feet and graded from Liberty to Winnwood under specifications that will meet requirements for state aid. There will be only one hill between Kansas City and Liberty having a grade of more than 5 per cent.

Slackers Are Arrested.

United States Deputy Marshal W. T. Brown has announced the arrest of Marvin and Homer McManis, brothers, on a charge of failing to register for the draft at their home, fifteen miles east of Nevada recently by Brown and Deputy Marshal Marrs of Joplin, on instructions from the district attorney's office at Kansas City. The sheriff of Vernon county furnished the information leading to the arrests.

Rich Hill Women Aid in War.

The Rich Hill chapter of the national surgical committee, with one hundred members, has made its first shipment of surgical dressings to the national headquarters of the association in New York City.

103-Year-Old Woman Enrolls.

Mrs. Manora Johnston, 103 years old, was one of the women enrolled at Carthage to voluntarily assist the government in furtherance of the war.

Old Liberty Resident Dead.

Giles William Clardy, 88 years old, a life long resident of Clay County, died at Liberty recently.

German Paper to Suspend.

The Westphalia Volksblatt, which has been printed in German many years by Capt. Henry Castrop, announces that it will suspend publication soon. The paper has been an influential organ in Osage county half a century or more.

Train Hit Mile Motor Car.

W. E. Barnard of Lamar, a wealthy land owner, was killed when Santa Fe No. 17 crashed into the motor car he was driving. The accident occurred at a crossing near Carrollton Junction.

Hermann Brewery Quits.

Even in strong German communities, breweries are finding it hard to make things go, and the old Kropf Brewery at Hermann is no more. Carpenters have bought the old site, which included thirty building lots, for \$5,000.

\$57,000 To Aid Home Guard.

Subscriptions exceeding \$57,000 for the equipment and maintenance of two regiments of home guards in St. Louis were obtained in fifteen minutes the other day.

JOHN A. KNOTT ENDS CAREER

State Oil Inspector Kills Himself at Home in Hannibal Because of Ill Health.

John A. Knott, 65 years old, state oil inspector and for a quarter of a century editor of the Hannibal Morning Journal, committed suicide at Hannibal by cutting his throat with a razor. Knott was found by his wife lying in a bath tub with a deep gash across his neck. His jugular vein was partially severed.

A general breakdown in health, together with his failure to be reappointed oil inspector, which position he held under former Governor Major, is believed by many to have caused him to commit the act.

For the last few months Knott has been waging a strong fight for reappointment as oil inspector. Both United States Senators William J. Stone and James A. Reed made visits to Jefferson City in his behalf. Recently Governor Gardner officially announced that Omar D. Gray of Sturgeon would get Knott's position, while Knott would be made land reclamation commissioner, the salary of which is \$1,000 less than what Knott has been drawing from the state.

More than a year ago Knott suffered an attack of ptomaine poisoning and was near death. Since that time he has been in ill health.

Knott was a member of the state railroad and warehouse commission twelve years. When that department was abolished, four years ago, Governor Major appointed him state oil inspector. He has made his headquarters in Hannibal. Knott, for a quarter of a century has been recognized among the leaders in the Democratic party in Missouri. During last year's campaign he had charge of the publicity bureau of the Democratic state committee, and spent several weeks in St. Louis directing this phase of Governor Gardner's campaign.

STORM HITS MILITARY CAMP

Three Members of First Missouri Infantry Killed by Lightning—Several Dangerously Injured.

Three members of the First Missouri Infantry were killed and a dozen others were injured, some of them dangerously, by a bolt of lightning in a storm which swept Camp Maxwell, St. Louis county, at 2 o'clock the other morning.

The dead are: H. S. Davis, sergeant, Company L; Dwight L. Trump, private, Company F; Charles B. Carroll, private, Company E.

Among the dangerously injured were Sergt. Jack Allen of F Company and Corp. Clarence Dunsford. They were revived by means of pulmotors and are believed to be practically out of danger. The other injured men were severely burned.

The soldiers were asleep in the guard tent at the main entrance to the camp when the storm broke. The tent collapsed and the injured and dead were carried to the hospital tent, where efforts were made to revive them.

Private Trump was to have left the same day for the bedside of his dying mother at Burlington, Ia.

North Missouri Crops Good.

Crop conditions in Daviess county continue excellent. The biggest crop of oats in the history of the county has just been harvested. The yield averaged around sixty bushels, quality fine and the acreage largest ever grown. The wheat crop was excellent, but not large. A big hay crop of fine quality is now being harvested. Local showers and intensive cultivation give a fine outlook for corn. Some sections need rain, but the crop is not seriously impaired. Buckwheat, millet and other late planted crops are doing fine.

Motor Car Killed Farmer.

Luther Buxter, 52 years old, a widely known farmer living near Callao, Macon county, was struck by a motor car driven by State Senator Walter C. Goodson and died as a result of his injuries.

Children Bitten by Dogs.

Nine children were bitten by dogs in St. Louis recently and two of them are in a critical condition. All were given emergency treatment for rabies.

An Then Draft Missed Him.

Fear of being drafted caused Edwin Kramer, 23 years old of Booneville, to shoot himself in the forehead. Kramer has been obsessed by the idea that the sheriff was going to call him for the new army and the worry caused him to attempt to kill himself. His parents were awakened by a shot and found him lying in the yard with a bullet hole in his head. He is paralyzed as a result and no hope is held out for his recovery. His home is near Blackwater, in Cooper county. Kramer's number was drawn far down the list, and he probably would not have been called.

Montgomery Coroner Called.

Dr. B. F. Menefee, coroner of Montgomery county, received a telegram notifying him to report at Fort Riley August 10, having been selected as surgeon with the rank of lieutenant in the United States army.

Sewer Gas Kills Two.

Joseph and Louis Moss, brothers, were found dead in an abandoned cistern at St. Louis. The men are thought to have fallen into the cistern accidentally and to have been killed by sewer gas.

New Company Enters State.

The Buffalo Oil and Gas Company, a \$250,000 oil and gas company of Enid, Ok., has invaded Missouri and its first action was to purchase leases on about 2,500 acres west of Columbia.

Draft 4 in One Family.

Four stalwart sons of Mrs. Margarets Durke of near Liberty—Kirk, John, Wallace and Pence—were among the first drawn in the selective draft for army service. None claimed exemption.

Fads and Fancies Of Fashion



Remodeled Frocks for School Wear.

Thrift and patriotism walk hand in hand these days when we must all economize in the use of things that are scarce and needed by the government.

Now is the time to make use of all left-over woolen garments, instead of buying new ones, and it is something worse than poor taste to throw away woolen dresses that are good, but out of date. They are to be remodeled or made over for the schoolchildren or given to someone who can use them. For wool is needed by the army and that must be considered before everything else.

The plain one-piece frock, or the separate skirt, with silk blouse, made for school girls about due to engage the attention of mothers everywhere. This way opportunity lies for making use of all the substantial woolen dresses that have outlasted the styles, but their usefulness. There is a great satisfaction in exercising one's ingenuity and changing an old dress into a new one.



"Sweater" Bags for Many Uses.

"Sister Sue is sewing shirts for soldiers," for, if she isn't sewing shirts or pajamas, or sheets and pillowcases, or something else, she is out of the running in society. She may be knitting socks or eye bandages or scarfs or sweaters, instead of sewing, but she must be doing something—her patriotism must have an outward and visible sign of some sort or she will find herself lonesome—all her sister women are making themselves useful.

Sister Sue sallies forth with a bag of some kind, in which she carries her knitting and sewing, and many other things. The bag, originally designed for a sweater bag, has been pressed into service for many other purposes, and now that a movement is afoot for carrying home one's small parcels, accumulated on the shopping tour, the sweater bag is the almost constant companion of the up-to-date women of today. It is pretty to start with, rather easy to make, of more or less material and always wholly attractive material; it is a thing of beauty and a joy for the duration of the war at least.

The sweater bag may be made of cretonne, satin, silk, sateen, wide ribbons, Japanese silk, or any material which is decorative. A very pretty bag is pictured here, made of cretonne having a white ground and a floral pattern in green, dull purple, light brown and black, spread over it.

To Dry Sweet Potatoes.

Select round, mature roots. (a) Wash, boil until nearly done, peel, and run through the meat chopper. Spread on trays and dry until brittle. (b) Treat as above, but slice instead of running through the meat chopper. (c) Wash, peel, slice, spread on trays, and dry. A somewhat brighter product will result if the sliced potato is dipped in salt water just before drying.

Pumpkins and Squash.

(a) Select sound, well-grown specimens. Cut into strips; peel these; remove all seeds and the soft part surrounding them. Cut strips into smaller bits not over one-fourth inch thick and two inches long, and dry. (b) Pare and cut into about one-half-inch strips and blanch three minutes. Remove surface moisture and dry slowly from three to four hours, raising temperature from 110 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Capes in Two Parts.

The summer wraps which are considered very smart are divided into two parts, one checked, one plain. Even if the top part of the cape is not checked, it is covered with a design of some sort.

GRAIN CROPS ARE PROMISING

Western Canada 1917 Crops in Good Shape.

While it is a little early to predict what the Western Canada grain crop will produce, there is every indication at the present writing that the 1917 crop will give an excellent return. Reports received from all portions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta speak of good growing weather, a fairly advanced stage of all grains, with prospects as good as in the past two years. Should conditions continue as at present, it is safe to conclude that Western Canadian farmers, already free of debt, as a result of the splendid crops and prevailing high prices, expect from this season's returns to be in a position that will place them away beyond any fear of the future.

The acreage of Western Canada will be about the same as last year. Seeding was somewhat later than last year, but germination was quicker. The only possible drawback now would seem to be a scarcity of harvest hands, but it is felt by the authorities that the situation will be pretty well cared for by that time.

Land values are increasing, but there is room for a much greater increase than in the past, owing to the returns that farmed land will give when compared with its cost. In some districts land that could have been bought five years ago for \$15 an acre is changing hands at \$60 an acre, the seller satisfied that he is giving the purchaser good value for his money. And why not, when it is known that in a great many cases during the past two years crops have been grown on this land that have produced a profit of forty and fifty dollars per acre, over and above cost of production. These cases, while not general, were not exceptional.

In addition to the lands that are offered for sale by railway companies, land companies and private individuals, the homesteading areas offer great inducements for those who are willing to do a little pioneering for a year or two. By little time settlements would come into existence, and this means a condition similar to that enjoyed by many of the older settlements of today—schools, churches, railways. The land is of high-class quality, strong and vigorous, easily worked, and capable of producing the very best of crops.

The demand for all grains for some years will be great, and it will require all the resources of man, beast and soil to meet it. That the prices will be good goes without saying, but at the present time there is something more appealing than the lucrative prices that prevail. That is, the desire to assist in winning the world war. The man at the plow is doing his "bit," and the spirit of patriotism that prevails will lead him into a broader sphere of action. No matter where he may be he will look about him that he may find land to further develop the country's resources. It is possible that his own state may furnish the land, in which case he will be quick to take advantage of the offer. If land in his own state is not available, Canada (now our ally) will be glad to furnish it in unlimited quantity, as she is vitally interested in largely increasing the supply of foodstuff which is now as urgently needed and is as valuable as ammunition to the allied countries.

The appeal made by Mr. Hoover, United States controller of foods, and also by Hon. W. J. Hanna, Canadian controller, emphasizes the need of the allies, urges economy and the prevention of the waste in food, and bespeaks whole-hearted public co-operation. Speaking of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and their European allies, they say:

"For nearly three years their man power has been engaged in the direct work of war, and in some cases large areas of their most productive lands have been overrun by the enemy. Their food shortage and the food to supply the armies of Canada and the United States must be wholly provided from this side of the Atlantic. The supply must also be sufficient to cover losses at sea. Australia, New Zealand, the Argentine Republic and other countries are not now available to relieve the situation because of their remoteness and the shortage of tonnage."

"The crop of storable foods grown in Canada and the United States suitable for shipment overseas threatens to be entirely inadequate to meet the demand unless the whole people determine by every means in their power to make up the shortage. Every individual is under a direct obligation to assist in rationing the allied forces. There must be national self-denial and national co-operation to provide the necessary supplies."—Advertisement.

The Situation.

"Do you bond there?"

"I do."

"She has the reputation of not giving her people enough to eat."

"It's this way. I get enough. I have seen tables at which I could eat more, however."

Sugar Production Doubled.

The total world production of both beet and cane sugar nearly doubled during the 20 years 1895-96 to 1912-13, increasing from 11,000,000 to 20,000,000 tons.

Patronize Our Advertisers.

"Do you often change your environment?"

"Shure an' I do; ivry Saturday night."

The Reply of the Fan.

"What is the 'call of the wild'?"

"Take him out of the box!"—The Lamb.

Good Cleansing Agent.

"How did you manage to clean your record with the old growth?"

"Oh, I just used some soft soap."